



TLETS NEWSLETTER

Texas Law Enforcement
Telecommunications System
Information Management Service
Telecommunications Section

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2nd Quarter 2006

TLETS Re-Engineering Project Update

TxDPS is pleased to announce that on April 2, 2006, the new TLETS message switch was placed into production. As expected there were a few items that had to be worked through, but all in all the implementation was considered a success. Most of the incidents reported were associated with delivery of response messages at the interface agencies. TxDPS believes that these problems have subsided. There are some cases where agencies received duplicate messages. Many of these were corrected, but in some instances the configuration of the agency prevented us from making a correction. TxDPS staff endeavored to assist agencies experiencing such problems to enable the delivery of messages. Any outstanding incidents should be reported to tlets@txdps.state.tx.us.

TxDPS is pleased to announce that late in June the beginning of the implementation of the workstation software. This is a major milestone in the TLETS upgrade. The web-based user interface will be deployed to those agencies ready to migrate on a first come-first serve basis. **All agencies must undergo, and be approved by the TxDPS Security Review Process prior to moving onto the new system. All agencies must migrate to the new system prior to September 2008.**

Once the workstation software implementation is ready for production, all agencies will be encouraged to complete the Security Review Process and begin the migration process. Agencies having an interface system are encouraged to use the TxDPS test bed to minimize downtime when the agency moves to the new TLETS System. TxDPS must reconfigure the Personal Earth Station for TCP/IP. Unfortunately, it is not technically possible to run both TCP/IP (new TLETS) and SNA (legacy TLETS) over the Satellite system simultaneously.

Prior to moving to the new system, TxDPS will contact you by phone and perform a telephone survey. This will allow TxDPS to collect all information necessary for the move. If your agency meets all the requirements and is ready to be placed on the migration list, send a written request to: mailto:TLETS_order_center@txdps.state.tx.us

Features of the Web-Based Application

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TxDPS is very excited because the new system will provide many capabilities that we do not support in the current system. We strongly believe that we have found a product that will provide you with more capability than you have now and that you will find the new system beneficial. Several new NLETS message keys (MKEs) will be supported. These message keys will be available in the new workstation but are dependent on other state's support for the MKEs:

- DNO – Driver License by Name
- RNO – Vehicle Registration by Name *
- CWQ – Concealed Weapons Permit
- WLQ – Wildlife Crime's Inquiry *

Continued on page 2.

- NIQ – NICB Impound/Export File *
- PPQ – Parole by person's name or number *
- PBO – Probation by person's name or number *
- PCQ – Corrections by person's name or number *
- PAQ – All three files by person's name or number *
- SOQ – Sex Offender Registration
- SON – Sex Offender Notification *
- ACQ/AVQ – Commercial Vehicle Information System *

* The state of Texas does not currently support these types of transactions.

TxDPS will also introduce a combination format, QUERY, which will allow multiple types of inquiries from a single screen. QUERY will retrieve driver license, wanted person, vehicle registration, stolen vehicle, stolen article, stolen gun, boat registration, and stolen boat inquiry from a single screen.

The new system will also provide:

- The capability to send and receive images from NCIC
- Pick lists for field codes
- Local logs
- Pop up notification when an NCIC or TCIC "hit" arrives
- Audible alert when a hit confirmation message arrives
- Creation of a hit confirmation request message from the receipt of TCIC and/or NCIC hit message with a right mouse click
- Creation of a hit confirmation response from the receipt of a hit confirmation request with a right mouse click
- Creation of a locate message from the receipt of a hit confirmation response with a right mouse click
- The ability to retransmit previous messages
- The ability to repopulate a form from a previously transmitted message
- The ability to forward sent and received messages.

Equipment needs

Workstations

A workstation is the term used for the device that will run the web-based application provided by TxDPS. Each computer running the new workstation software being provided by TxDPS must meet **or exceed** the following requirements:

Specification	Minimum
CPU Type/Speed	2 Ghz
Memory	512 MB
Display Resolution	1024 x 768
Disk Space available	100 MB
Operating System	Windows XP or 2000
Interface	TCP/IP Network Interface Card (NIC)

Printers

The new system will allow an agency to print to a windows printer from the workstation software. There is a feature similar to the "F4" reroute feature that can be set called "Auto Print" that allows messages destined to a workstation to be delivered to the printer automatically. If the TLETS agency wishes to have a dedicated printer for broadcast messages, the printer must be IP addressable.

Connectivity

The configuration for each agency varies significantly. A device is equivalent to equipment that is assigned a mnemonic in the current system. A device is a Workstation, an IP-addressable printer, or a server running an Interface program (CAD, RMS or mobile system). TxDPS will provide a 10.x.x.x subnet to each agency. TxDPS has attempted to provide a

general shopping list for each category of agency. While the list may not be comprehensive for your particular configuration, it is a starting point.

Small Site: Some agencies have only a single printer and terminal. If such an agency does not want an IP addressable printer, they will need only a workstation that meets or exceeds the specifications provided above.

Medium to Large Site: A satellite site has more than one device and is operating over the TxDPS supplied satellite equipment. The agency would need to provide the equipment for the devices. If the agency can support the subnet provided without using Network Address Translation (NAT), then the agency will need only supply a full-duplex switch having enough ports for all the devices needing connectivity. If the agency will be connecting from an IP network and cannot assign the TLETS devices the TxDPS assigned IP addresses, they will need to use NAT. In this situation, the agency will need to incorporate a standard TCP/IP router with console access to configure NAT.

Terrestrial Site: Agencies connecting to TxDPS on a terrestrial circuit regardless of the number of terminals will be provided FRATM connectivity that meets the traffic demands of the specific location. Agencies will need to procure a Cisco 2821 router; the exact specifications are posted on the TLETS website (instructions for accessing the TLETS website are at the end of this article).

Notice to CAD, RMS and Mobile Systems that Interface with TLETS

TXDPS has established a test area for TLETS subscribers who have an interface system implemented. The test area has been established as a courtesy for Interface Agencies and/or their vendors to use for testing modifications made to their CAD, RMS, and MDT systems to interface with the new TLETS system. The test area allows the participant to use a satellite system to communicate with the TxDPS test system and exchange information with NCIC, NLETS, MVD, TCIC, Driver License, and CCH through the TLETS Test system. More information on the interface agency testing can be found on the TLETS website under the link "TLETS Re-Engineering":

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/information_management/tlets/tletsindex.htm

The username is "tlets" and the case sensitive password is "#5Et3a". Do not include the quotation marks.

TxDPS appreciates your cooperation and patience as we work through this process.



NLETS VEHICLE REGISTRATION UPDATE

NLETS has now made commercial vehicle registration available from Mexico. Inquiries are made by using the, "RQ" format; enter destination state of MX and tab to the license plate field. Then enter the plate number and year of expiration and license type code.

```
RR.MXLIC0000
08:17 05/18/2006 08879
08:17 05/18/2006 93776 TXDPS00B1
TXT
LIC/227BS9
AUTOTRANSPORTE DAST, S.A. DE C. V.
AV PRADOS NORTE, UNIDAD MORELOS, TULTITLAN, EDO. 54935.
VIN/3HSNEAETXYN076383.VYR/2000.ENGINE_NO/43501064
LIT/TRACTOR - 3 AXLES.VMA/MEXICO
LIC_STATUS/WITHDRAWAL EXCHANGED.LIC_ISSUED/01242000
REGISTRANT_RFC/ADA9307153U2.REGISTRANT_STATUS/REGISTERED
LIC_CLASS/FREIGHT MOTOR.VST/TRACTOR
LIC_SERVICE/MATERIALES PELIGROSOS Y SUS RESIDUOS
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NOTE: THIS IS A RESPONSE FROM MX AUTHORIZATIONS INFORMATION

NEW RULING ON LEGALITY OF LICENSE PLATE FRAMES THAT OBSCURE PORTIONS OF A LICENSE PLATE

Back in 2002, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled in *United States v. Granado* that a license plate frame that partially blocked the state name on the license plate did not violate Section 502.409, Transportation Code. However, the Fifth Circuit has reversed its position on the legality of license plate frames that obscure portions of the state's name or other design features of a license plate.

The new case is *United States v. Contreras-Trevino* (Docket No. 05-40685, revised op. May 24, 2006). The defendant, Contreras-Trevino, was stopped by two officers on U.S. 281 near Alice, Texas for a violation of Section 502.409. A plastic frame covered the top-half of the word "TEXAS" and the bottom half of the license plate's design. The officers notified Border Patrol based on their suspicions that the defendant was violating federal immigration law. He was ultimately arrested, charged and convicted of unlawfully transporting an illegal alien in a motor vehicle.

In his appeal to the Fifth Circuit, the defendant argued that the officers had no reasonable suspicion to detain him because under *Granado*, his license plate frame did not violate Section 502.409. The government argued that because the frame partially obscured both the state name and a design element on the license plate, the defendant had violated both Sections 502.409(a)(6) and 502.409(a)(7)(A), and therefore the traffic stop was valid.

The court agreed with the government's argument that the amendments to Section 502.409 in 2003 had "altered the legal landscape on which the *Granado* result rested and that a plain reading of the Texas Transportation Code now proscribes the use of license plate frames that obscure certain protected features of the vehicle's license plate." In particular, the court noted that the revised version of Section 502.409(a)(6) now makes it an offense if a motor vehicle "license plate or registration insignia has *an illuminated device or sticker, decal, emblem, or other insignia that is not authorized by law*" which "interferes with the readability of the letters or numbers on the plate, *or the name of the state in which the vehicle is registered*" (emphasis by court). In addition, the court noted that Section 502.409(a)(7)(B) makes it an offense if a license plate or registration insignia has "a coating, covering, or protective material that ***alters or obscures the letters or numbers on the plate, the color of the plate, or another original design feature of the plate***" (emphasis by court).

The court rejected the defendant's argument that the Legislature had not intended for the word "covering" to include a "license plate frame" for the purposes of Section 502.409. In reaching this conclusion the court relied on a recent U.S. District Court opinion, *United States v. Flores-Fernandez*, which had directly addressed that issue. The Fifth Circuit noted that "angular visibility"—which was what the *Granado* court had focused on—was not the only interest protected by Section 502.409(a)(7) which was subsequently amended to include the words "original design features." Finally, the court found that Section 502.409(a)(6) expressly protects the name of the state, and that Section 502.409(a)(7) extends to the word "TEXAS" which is a design feature of the plate.

Based on the fact that the defendant was operating a vehicle with a license plate frame that covered part of the state motto, the picture of oil derricks and cowboy, and the state name, the court held that the officers had probable cause to stop him for violating Section 502.409. ***Addendum: The San Antonio Court of Appeals just released an opinion in State v. Johnson holding that a license plate frame that obscures all or part of the state name or a design element of a license plate violates the current Section 502.409, Transportation Code. This is the first Texas Court of Appeals to address the issue since the statute was amended in 2003.***

The opinions expressed in this Legal Bulletin are for the benefit of current DPS employees and may only be relied on by current DPS employees. Opinions are not intended to give legal advice on any specific fact situation. The legal opinion may change, depending on the specific facts of your situation. Reprinted by the DPS Legal Bulletin Issue 91 2006

There is an error in the 2005-2006 version of the Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual (green cover). Texas Government Code § 411.205, printed on pages 1350-1351, contains a Subsection (c). THIS IS INCORRECT! There is no Subsection (c) in this statute.



DON'T LET YOUR RECORDS BE DELETED

It's that time again for all agencies to validate their NLETS ORION agency records that are housed at NLETS. It is the responsibility of all agencies that use NLETS to assure that all ORION entries owned by that user (state, federal and/or associate) have been certified as up-to-date and accurate. This validation effort is in conjunction with NCIC's validation.

The TLETS staff must certify that all records are valid, accurate, and up-to-date and attest to the validity of each record owned by the member. NLETS staff will cause the certification date in each record to be updated to reflect the successful completion of the certification procedure. Users will have until August 31, 2006 to certify their ORI's. Following this date, NLETS will notify the members that their ORI's have not been certified and will be deactivated in 30 days unless certified. If, after thirty days from the time the member has received the second notice, the ORI's that have still not been certified they will be deactivated.

If your record(s) are deleted you will not receive any Interstate Identification Index information Validations must be completed no later than October 31, 2006.

Instructions for police departments, and school districts. Your agency will have only one record. Use the TQ form enter destination of TX then tab to the ORI field and only enter your agencies ORI. When you receive your record review it for the proper phone numbers, area codes, addresses etc. If your record needs modification use form TU to modify. Enter your location (city only) and ORI, then modify only the field that needs to be changed, press the enter key. Your record will be modified.

Instructions for sheriff's office's and all county agencies. First view your records as instructed above. All county agencies will have two records, one by city location and one by the county you represent. If you need to modify, enter by city location and ORI, then modify the fields that need changes and press enter. Leave the form up, go back to the LOC field and enter the county name and include the word COUNTY. Example:

Record 1 LOC/ODESSA Record 2 LOC/ECTOR COUNTY

Press enter. Now you have updated both records.

NOTE: All agencies that provide TLETS services for non-TLETS member agencies must review and certify all those records as well. If no modifications are needed, use the TU form. Enter the city and or county in the LOC field and the agency ORI and simply re-enter the phone number. Transmit and the record will be validated.

Instructions for military and federal agencies: Review your record using the TQ before any modifications. Once reviewed and there are needed modifications use the TU form and make sure you have the proper FED identifier in the location field and include the hyphen (-). All military will have two records - one by base name and one by base location. Example:

ORI/TXAFO0600 LOC/AFO-SHEPPARD AFB
ORI/TXAFO06S0 LOC/AFO-WICHITA FALLS

Federal agencies have two-records:

ORI/TXINS0500 LOC/INS-MCALLEN
ORI/TXINS05S0 LOC/INS-MCALLEN

1st quarter TLETS Puzzler Answers

ACROSS

1. VINASSIST REFERENCE
7. WCA BROADCAST LIST
10. DIPLOMATIC 7.8
13. PRINCEEDWARDISLAND (STATES)
14. DRX FORMATS
15. US 7.8
16. NLOLN (NHF HELP)

DOWN

1. VIN0000 7.9
2. TLETSUSEREQUIPMENTAGREEMENT (APPENDIX 7)
3. DEPARTMENTOFSTATE 7.8
4. PHILIPPINESISLANDS (SOC HELP)
5. NEWMEXICO (REGIONS HELP)
6. NLLIC (NHF HELP)
8. COLOR 4.7
9. FRAUD 13.12.2
11. PROVOST (APPENDIX 6)
12. CNGEN (NHF HELP)\
17. NA 2ND QUARTER
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HELPFUL DPS LINKS

DPS has a new TLETS webpage. To obtain:
TLETS /NLETS Operating Manuals

- Mnemonic address list by city and county
- TLETS Newsletters
- TLETS Equipment User Agreement with instructions
- "How to make a building satellite ready" information
- De-icing policy.
- TLETS Re-engineering Go to:

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/information_management/tlets/tletsindex.htm

A security screen will appear. Enter User name: tlets
Password: #5Et3a

To obtain driver license alarm and administrative codes, vehicle revocations and H.E.A.T Training Manuals, go to: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DIFLE>

A security screen will appear. Enter user name: difle
Password: xm3692TL

ALL CASE SENSITIVE

NEW AGENCIES ON TLETS

NAME CHANGES

GEORGEWEST NTF #31 CHANGE TO
BENAVIDES CENTRAL S.TX. TF#31
NC8C

TXDOT UPDATE

The Texas Department of Transportation, Vehicle Titles and Registration Division has a web site available for vehicle information for non-law enforcement use. Types of businesses that may be interested include:

Auto dealers, auto auction, wrecker services, salvage yards, insurance companies, bank, credit unions, title services, and collection agencies, city/county municipalities that have code enforcement, university/colleges and private investigators. This information is available 24-hours a day. For further information go to:

<https://prod1.dot.state.tx.us/cencompop.html>

For out-of-state information:

<https://www.dot.state.tx.us/othertrans/usmap.htm>

Driver License Update

If the driver record reflects an alarm (DENY RENEWAL) for non-payment of a reinstatement fee, law enforcement officers should not arrest or issue citations to the individual for "DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID" if the statutory suspension period has been completed and the license has not expired.

The purpose of the (DENY RENEWAL) alarm is to indicate that the reinstatement fee must be paid prior to renewal of the individual's driver license.

TRAINING CALENDAR

AUSTIN

July 17-21, 2006 – REGION 7

ROSENBERG

July 24-28, 2006 – REGION 2

PHARR

August 14-18, 2006 – REGION 8

AUSTIN

August 21-25, 2006 REGION 7

ABILENE

September 25-29, 2006 – REGION 4

LUBBOCK

October 23-27, 2006 – REGION 5

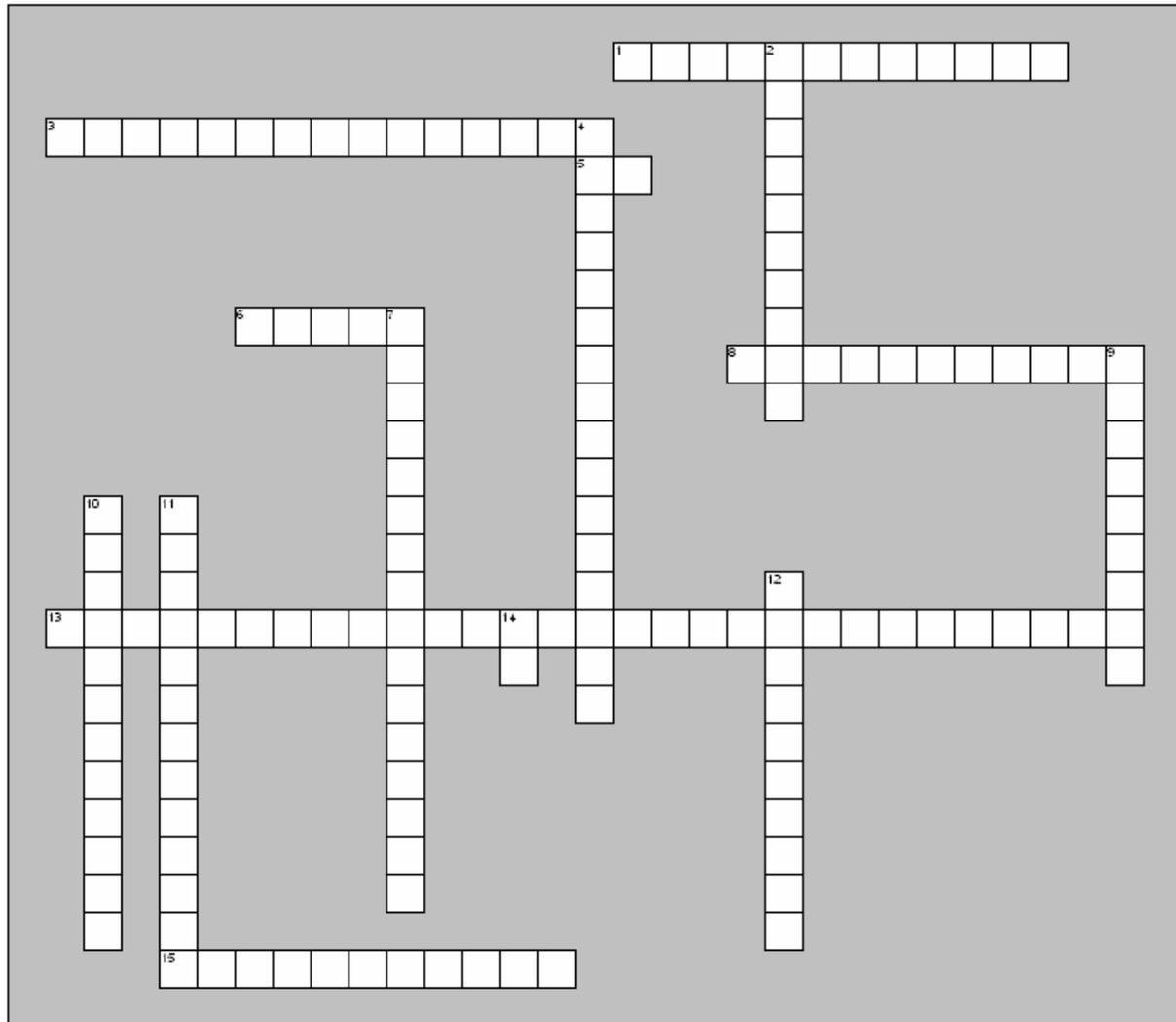
HILLSBORO

November 13-17, 2006 – REGION 6

To host a DPS TLETS/NLETS and TCIC/NCIC Basic Procedures Course #3811 – Contact DPS Austin at mnemonic address JJ)\$ or call 512.424.2419. Agencies desiring the three day TLETS /NLETS Basic Operator's Course can attend the first three days of the 40-hour school. E-mail contact Joanne.jenkins@txdps.state.tx.us The following is the TLETS schedule for the year:

REGION 1	December – June
REGION 2	January – July
REGION 3	February
REGION 4	March – September
REGION 5	April – October
REGION 6	November – May
REGION 7	When the DPS Academy is available.
REGION 8	August

Crossword



Across

- One method of inquiring into the PWD boat registration files by boat motor _____.
- TLETS and NLETS can only be used for this purpose.
- Is the POE for Mexican CDL and Vehicle inquiries.
- Reason code "S" used in the RSN; field of all Canadian NLETS/INTERPOL inquiry formats.
- The "APB" broadcast mnemonic address should be restricted to _____ regarding the safety of lives/apprehension of dangerous felons.
- In the "new" TLETS you will have the ability to do training in the _____.
- Texas exempt license plates are ____.

Down

- This is sent out twice daily at 06:00 and 18:00.
- This is one of the four reasons that an ATL message may be originated on TLETS.
- The new name for TLETS.
- The Customs & Border Protection can provide information on persons arrested for alien _____.
- "FM" is the abbreviation for this in the Texas weather/road summary reports.
- The NICB All Files inquiry format provides access to this.
- ROW messages are _____ from state-wide broadcast.
- Is the point of entry to check if a vehicle has crossed the borders of the U.S.